



Office of the Mayor  
**Gavin Buckley**

160 Duke of Gloucester  
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 28, 2024

Maryland House of Delegates  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
Maryland State Senate  
Annapolis, MD 21402

**Letter in OPPOSITION to HB 1215: Retail Delivery Fee and Transportation Network Company Impact Fee (March 1 Committee Hearing)**

Dear Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

I am writing to you today in opposition of House Bill 1215, the proposed delivery service impact fee on restaurant and retail deliveries. As Mayor of the City of Annapolis, I know many of these are small business operations who play a critical role in the City's tourism and business economy.

The result of HB 1215, if implemented, would mean higher costs to restaurants, retail establishments and, in the end, consumers. As an industry, restaurants and retail establishments have suffered greatly in the past few years, first with the challenges of COVID, then the financial impacts of supply chain and, lastly, inflation. Layering on additional impact fees will mean restaurants will have to set higher menu prices on delivery items to cover the cost of doing business. Please note that delivery costs and impact fees are not typically calculated into regular consumer pricing. Raising these fees can seriously impact a small business's profit and loss.

In addition, impact fees ultimately affect consumers, who may move away from the convenience of delivery because they are priced out of that option. In Annapolis, much of our retail and restaurant economy relies on small businesses who realize how fickle the public can be when it comes to cost.

I urge you to consider these dynamics to local businesses and families as you weight your vote on HB 1215. **I strongly urge a "no" vote on this legislation.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Warmest Regards,

Mayor Gavin Buckley  
City of Annapolis

